

SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Prelude

The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

Welcome

Opening Sentences, Ps. 51:15

O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hymn: #275 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* (verses 1,2)

*Litany for Reformation Sunday

Leader: We have met to confess and acknowledge one God alone,

People: to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust.

Leader: We have met to feast on the Living Word, Jesus Christ,

People: who took on human flesh to become one with us, and from whom our salvation springs and depends.

Leader: We have met to listen for the song of the Holy Spirit,

People: who opens minds and bends stubborn hearts, who has led the church throughout all ages, in all realms and tongues.

Leader: We have met to proclaim that we are the Church Reformed,

People: always willing to be reformed, and always willing to be changed for the purposes of God.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Forgive our sin, O God, and turn us again toward your purposes. Reform our lives by renewing our dedication to you. By your Holy Spirit, give us a new sense of our calling, a new zeal in our faithfulness, a new compassion toward neighbors in need, and a new appreciation for your love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. May we always be open to the reforming and refreshing wind of your Spirit. Amen.

(A moment of silence is observed)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

The Reading of Scripture and Lighting of Candles

Leader: In celebration of the Reformation, let us look at some of the scriptures that inspired it. As we hear these words read, may God open our hearts and minds to wisdom and good news.

Galatians 2:16-21

Romans 1:17, 5:1-2

Ephesians 2:8-9

1 Peter 2:5

2 Timothy 3:16

Leader: We are reminded how the Reformers lifted up

and affirmed the belief that it is through faith in God's grace, and not through good works, that humans are justified before God. For salvation is a gift of grace, not something we've earned through our own merit, and every Christian is considered part of the "priesthood."
Thanks be to God.

Prayer

As we prepare to come to the table, hear this *Prayer for a New Day* from John Calvin

Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Prayer After Communion (unison)

God of abundance, having shared the feast of your coming reign, send us in the hope that a new day is dawning. Guide us in the knowledge that your goodness can feed the hungry, free the oppressed, and forgive the burdened. Prepare us to be reconcilers in a world that needs to know the depth of your love. Amen.

Hymn: #275 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* (Verses 3, 4)

Dismissal

The grace of God be with us all, now and always.

Amen.

Bless the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

Postlude

During the postlude a sign of peace is encouraged to be exchanged by all.

Worship Notes:

At the end of worship, in gratitude for the love and grace extended to us by God, we are invited to share our resources to support ministries of justice and mercy to benefit neighbor and stranger. Please place your gifts and pledges in the basket near the door as you exit.

This morning, communion is served by intinction. The congregation comes forward by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

Today is Reformation Sunday, a day when we recall the rich heritage of the Protestant tradition. The Presbyterian Church (USA) grew out of the Reformation of the sixteenth century under leaders such as John Calvin and John Knox. It was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his ninety five theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, the watershed event sparking the Reformation. Luther later authored today's opening hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

*Sources and Credits: *The Litany for Reformation Sunday*, by Shawn Fiedler, is based on the *Scots Confession*.